

Lewis and Clark County Mental Health Local Advisory Council
Intermountain Conference Room
Tuesday, May 7, 2019, 11:30 a.m.

Mission Statement: The purpose of the LAC is to assist in the improvement of Lewis and Clark County public mental health services and to review and make recommendations about Lewis and Clark County's public mental health services to the Lewis and Clark County Commissioners, as well as provide input and recommendations to the State of Montana's Mental Health Oversight Advisory Council (MHOAC) and the State of Montana's Service Area Authority (SAA) serving the community.

Minutes

1. Call to Order and Reading of the Mission Statement

Jill Steeley called the meeting to order and Drenda Niemann read the LAC mission.

Members in Attendance: Jill Steeley(Chair), Matt Furlong (Vice Chair), John Wilkinson (Past Chair), Drenda Niemann, Ray Roberts, Vee Yang, Brian Coplin, David Roberts, Emily Munn, Cory Bailey, Andy Hunthausen, Katie Jerstad, and Jess Hegstrom.

Guests in Attendance: Jillian DeAmicis-Danesi, Dennis Nyland, Dan O'Malley, Brandy Vail, Rebecca Hargis, Carolyn Belling, John Brewer, and Gary G.

Staff in Attendance: Jocelyn Olsen.

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes

The meeting minutes from April 2, 2019 were approved.

3. Observations of General LAC Meetings

Jill Steeley shared that all general LAC meetings tend to be rushed. However, after discussion with the County Commissioner Hunthausen, they determined it is important to respect the time of all meeting attendees by continuing to limit the meetings to one hour. In order to gain more time in meetings, the Chair has asked that all updates from other mental health agencies be sent to staff support prior to meetings for dispersal via email.

It was also noted that many times specific cases will be discussed at the general LAC meeting. The Chair asked that any discussion regarding specific cases be held at the Law Enforcement Mental Health Committee where such conversation already takes place. By limiting case conferencing in the general LAC meeting, it will better represent the mission of the LAC and ensure the privacy of the specific individuals as the LAC is a public meeting.

4. HELP and Gaps in Services

Brian Coplin shared some of his personal background and how he became involved in the community. Brian explained that over 30 years ago he created a community grid system to help identify assets and deficits which then evolved in to a computer database called HELP. Brian explained some of the challenges he has experienced while working with individuals in crisis in our community, specifically the gaps in services. Brian stated that it is important that our community has a data system available to help in the identification of these gaps in services. Brian referenced a specific case that outlined where multiple gaps in services exist.

Brian asked the LAC for help in applying for a new grant that would support the identification of gaps in services, explaining some of his personal struggles in the process. Brian stated that the LAC does not understand that the community is not doing as well as they think it is.

Drenda Niemann referenced the LAC's Strategic Plan and the three workgroups currently functioning under the LAC, each of which focus on the different issues Brian presented. Drenda suggested that Brian join the LAC Steering Committee at their next meeting to present the grant application and determine where it fits in the LAC Strategic Plan.

5. Healthy Together Update

In December 2018, a community health report was submitted providing an outline of our community health status. This report was then used to identify the primary health focuses of the community, behavioral health and early childhood. One of the focuses of the behavioral health portion is education and awareness, which will be taken on by the Suicide Prevention Coalition. The second focus area is screening and access to care which aligns with the LAC Strategic Plan. The LAC, as one of the key contributors to the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP), will form a fourth workgroup to focus on screening and access to care.

To implement more screening for depression and anxiety in the community, the LAC believes it would be best to create a pilot project in primary care clinics and pediatric clinics to provide this universal screening. The new workgroup will provide oversight to this pilot program, first identifying a project lead, establishing an action plan, and naming a "physician champion" who will reach out to the various physicians in our community. Next, the workgroup will create a toolkit to implement the screening throughout the community in organizations such as RMDC and Food Share. Jill Steeley stated that she would start reaching out to specific individuals on the LAC to ask if they will be a part of this workgroup.

6. Workgroup Reports

a. One – Effectiveness, Accessibility, Quality of Services

Workgroup One is working on a pilot project collecting data on individuals who have already experienced a crisis, looking back on where there are currently gaps in the system and how they reached crisis. This project targets individuals receiving services at the hospital, Journey Home, and Criminal Justice Services. They have developed a questionnaire asking about the social determinants of health as well as the factors that has contributed to their crisis.

b. Two – Community Outreach

Workgroup Two has been working on the May is Mental Health Month events and Jess Hegstrom has put together a calendar outlining all related events. The next meeting will be held on June 11th where they will further discuss resource distribution and potentially partnering with Workgroup Four.

c. Three – Gaps in Services

Workgroup Three encompasses the three Mayor's Challenge groups, one of which focuses on the 2-1-1 system. United Way will be hosting a Hack-a-thon to help launch the system in our community.

7. Updates From Other Mental Health Groups

a. Mental Health Oversight Advisory Council

The next meeting will be May 16th.

b. Lewis and Clark County Suicide Prevention

Training for Psych Armor will be kicking off on May 27th, Memorial Day, and continuing until Veteran's Day where various organizations will be challenging each other, starting with Public Health. If an organization has 50% or more of their staff trained, the overall agency will receive a military strong certification which can then be advertised.

c. Law Enforcement Mental Health Committee

In the month of April, there were 144 patients seen for mental health concerns.

Commissioner Hunthausen suggested that the LAC be a bit more proactive in gathering more specific information on the individuals being served by asking how they can help collect the information. Shane Gabriel also noted that having more specific data would be helpful as the hospital moves forward with the new Inpath Unit.

8. Agency Updates and Public Comment

The new PureView Clinic in East Helena will be opening up on May 20th. They will be providing primary care and dental. Intermountain will be providing all of the behavioral health services.

Our Place has a new calendar that will be starting on May 13th. On May 31st they will be having a fundraiser for bus tokens and passes and other funding assistance for the winter months.

Helena will have a new residential treatment center called the Hope Center coming soon. The program lasts about 8 months to one year. The first program will be just for women. They do not accept insurance but do their best to gather funds through fundraising and grants. Their first fundraiser will be on May 17th at the Kleffner Ranch. Hope Center would like to open prior to the end of the year.

The NAMI Office has moved to the former Helena Industries Building on Roberts. NAMI Connections groups will also be out of this building on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month at 7pm.

9. Next Meeting

June 4, 2019

10. Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned at 12:35pm.